

Public Law 600

CHAPTER 769

AN ACT

To permit the compelling of testimony under certain conditions and to grant immunity from prosecution in connection therewith.

August 20, 1954
[S. 16]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That title 18, United States Code, section 3486, is amended to read as follows:

Witnesses before Congress.
Immunity.
62 Stat. 833.

“§ 3486. Compelled testimony tending to incriminate witnesses; immunity

“(a) In the course of any investigation relating to any interference with or endangering of, or any plans or attempts to interfere with or endanger the national security or defense of the United States by treason, sabotage, espionage, sedition, seditious conspiracy or the overthrow of its Government by force or violence, no witness shall be excused from testifying or from producing books, papers, or other evidence before either House, or before any committee of either House, or before any joint committee of the two Houses of Congress on the ground that the testimony or evidence required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture, when the record shows that—

“(1) in the case of proceedings before one of the Houses of Congress, that a majority of the members present of that House; or

“(2) in the case of proceedings before a committee, that two-thirds of the members of the full committee shall by affirmative vote have authorized such witness to be granted immunity under this section with respect to the transactions, matters, or things concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination to testify or produce evidence by direction of the presiding officer and

that an order of the United States district court for the district wherein the inquiry is being carried on has been entered into the record requiring said person to testify or produce evidence. Such an order may be issued by a United States district court judge upon application by a duly authorized representative of the Congress or of the committee concerned. But no such witness shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he is so compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, nor shall testimony so compelled be used as evidence in any criminal proceeding (except prosecutions described in subsection (d) hereof) against him in any court.

“(b) Neither House nor any committee thereof nor any joint committee of the two Houses of Congress shall grant immunity to any witness without first having notified the Attorney General of the United States of such action and thereafter having secured the approval of the United States district court for the district wherein such inquiry is being held. The Attorney General of the United States shall be notified of the time of each proposed application to the United States district court and shall be given the opportunity to be heard with respect thereto prior to the entrance into the record of the order of the district court.

“(c) Whenever in the judgment of a United States attorney the testimony of any witness, or the production of books, papers, or other evidence by any witness, in any case or proceeding before any grand jury or court of the United States involving any interference with or endangering of, or any plans or attempts to interfere with or endanger,

50 USC 781 note,
42 USC 1801
note.

8 USC 1182(a),
1251(a), 1424(a).

Perjury or con-
tempt.

the national security or defense of the United States by treason, sabotage, espionage, sedition, seditious conspiracy, violations of chapter 115 of title 18 of the United States Code, violations of the Internal Security Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 987), violations of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 755), as amended, violations of sections 212 (a) (27), (28), (29) or 241 (a) (6), (7) or 313 (a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 182-186; 204-206; 240-241), and conspiracies involving any of the foregoing, is necessary to the public interest, he, upon the approval of the Attorney General, shall make application to the court that the witness shall be instructed to testify or produce evidence subject to the provisions of this section, and upon order of the court such witness shall not be excused from testifying or from producing books, papers, or other evidence on the ground that the testimony or evidence required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture. But no such witness shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, nor shall testimony so compelled be used as evidence in any criminal proceeding (except prosecution described in subsection (d) hereof) against him in any court.

“(d) No witness shall be exempt under the provision of this section from prosecution for perjury or contempt committed while giving testimony or producing evidence under compulsion as provided in this section.”

SEC. 2. The analysis of chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out

“3486. Testimony before Congress; immunity.”

and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“3486. Compelled testimony tending to incriminate witness; immunity.”

Approved August 20, 1954.

Public Law 601

CHAPTER 770

JOINT RESOLUTION

August 20, 1954
[S. J. Res. 140]

To establish a commission for the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Alexander Hamilton.

Alexander
Hamilton Bicen-
tennial Commis-
sion.
Establishment.
Members.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established a commission to be known as the “Alexander Hamilton Bicentennial Commission” (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”) which shall be composed of nineteen Commissioners as follows: The President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, all ex officio; and eight persons to be appointed by the President of the United States, four Senators to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and four Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Duties.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Commission to prepare plans and a program for signaling the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Alexander Hamilton. In preparing such plans and program the Commission shall give due consideration to any plan or plans which may be submitted to it, and to take such steps as may be necessary to coordinate and correlate its plans with those prepared by State or civic bodies. If the participation of other nations in